

April 12, 1963

Opinion No. 175 Answered by Letter

Honorable Hubert Wheeler  
Commissioner of Education  
State Department of Education  
P.O. Box 480  
Jefferson City, Missouri



Dear Mr. Wheeler:

We have your opinion request regarding the St. Louis County Special School District especially as related to students with speech defects. It appears that in 1958 your department set up a policy with respect to speech defective students whereby state aid was given to the Special District under which policy teachers went to schools not operated by the Special District and gave speech instruction to students needing such training.

We understand that as of now there are approximately 2700 students receiving such instruction; that theoretically and for the purpose of receiving state aid these students are accounted for in units or "classes" of between 80 to 120 students although in fact there are no such classes; that there are currently approximately 30 such state-aid units for which the state gives aid of \$2,800 each or \$84,000 annually.

We presume that your policy will be to continue this program. If so, then we presume that you will set up a similar accounting system of units from 80 to 120 to cover the other students not presently receiving speech instruction who reside in the Special District and who seek such similar instruction. Such a program as an extension of the one already established by your department in 1958, we would deem to be legally tolerable and defensible in the event any litigation might arise questioning same.

Very truly yours,

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THOMAS F. EAGLETON  
Attorney General